

However, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any underpayment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0892.

AMENDMENT

In the claims:

Please amend Claim 2 so that the text of the amended claim reads as follows:

2. (Twice Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence that:

(a) encodes the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 2; and

(b) hybridizes under highly stringent conditions including washing in 0.1xSSC/0.1% SDS at 68°C to the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 or the complement thereof.

Please add the following claims:

4.(New) An expression vector comprising a nucleic acid sequence of Claim 3.

B2
Sub C17 5.(New) A cell comprising the expression vector of Claim 5.

RESPONSE

I. Status of the Claims

Claim 2 have been amended. New claims 4 and 5 have been added. Claims 1-5 are therefore presently pending in the case. For the convenience of the Examiner and in compliance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(c)(1)(ii), a marked up copy of the original claims is attached hereto as Exhibit A and a clean copy of the pending claims is attached hereto as Exhibit B.

II. Support for the Amended and New Claims

Claim 2 has been amended to further clarify the claim, and to recite highly stringent conditions. Amendment of Claim 2 finds support throughout the specification as originally filed, with particular support and conditions for highly stringent hybridization being found at page 4, lines 16-20.